(e) if so, the details of setps taken to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The physical and financial performance of the Company, execution of major projects and other critical issues are reviewed through Performance Review Meetings held at regular intervals and even through special meetings wherever required.

Ministry Monitoring Cell set up by the Ministry monitors the performance of the major projects in terms of parameters such as physical and financial progress, achievement of milestones etc. Action is initiated on the areas of concern.

(c) The following strategy has been formulated to boost the performance of ONGC:—

(i) ONGC has been conferred the 'Navratna' status as a result of which they would enjoy greater autonomy in decision making.

(ii) Organisational restructuring being implemented with the assistance of an internationally reputed management consultant.

(iii) Intensification of exploration efforts in the existing basin/sectors and expansion of its exploration efforts in deep water and frontier areas.

(iv) Maximise recovery from established oil/gas fields.

(v) Increasing thrust on global operations involving acquisition of exploration acreages and discovered fields/producing properties abroad.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, As on 31.3.1997 an amount of Rs. 2178/-crore was outstanding from the oil companies. To overcome the crunch, ONGC has resorted to short-term commercial borrowings from the Indian banking system and from other financial institutions. The problem of oil pool deficit is already receiving Government attention.

Laying of Under Ground Pipeline for Supply of LPG

400. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.C.D. has denied permission for laying pipelines under road for the pilot project of Gas Authority of India (GAIL) in order to supply cooking gas directly to households through pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) by when G.A.I.L. and M.C.D. are likely to settle the matter and start laying the pipelines under the roads and the areas identifed by the G.A.I.L. in the first instance for providing this facility; and

(d) the other areas, which are likely to be covered in the near future in a phased manner?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The MCD and N.D.M.C. have given permission for laying pipelines for the pilot project covering about 1200 consumers in Kaka Nagar, Bapa Nagar and Pandara Park in Delhi subject to depositing of department charges and bank guarantee. Laying of pipelines has already been completed.

(d) It is proposed to implement the Delhi City Gas Distribution Project covering other areas through a Joint Venture Comapny with equity participation from GAIL and BPCL.

Demand of Domestic Crude Oil

401. SHRI RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total domestic crude oil demand for 1996-97;

(b) what is the expected production of crude oil during the period in question;